

S-20

c. 1867


Dennis-Dashiell House (site)
Princess Anne
church parking lot

Perhaps the most elaborate example of the Italianate style in Somerset County was the Dennis-Dashiell house, which formerly stood near the northwest corner of the intersection of South Somerset and Antioch avenues until the late 1960s. The three-story, five-bay frame house was distinguished by an undulating roofline trimmed with large decorative brackets and over-sized modillion blocks. Rising through the roof were four brick chimneys topped with dentiled and corbelled caps. A three-bay front porch embellished with sawn balusters as well as sawn corner and eave brackets highlighted the first floor elevation. The third floor was lighted by round arched windows, not uncommon for the revival style. Extending to the rear was a two-story service wing.

Credit for the construction of this impressive dwelling is given to James Upshur Dennis, who purchased the large corner lot by several deeds beginning in December of 1866. By 1900, James U. Dennis had died, and the house passed to his daughters, Nellie H. Bratton, Maria R. Dennis, and Cecilia B. Dashiell. Nellie Bratton devised her interest in the property to the other two sisters. The house remained in the Dashiell family until the early 1960s. The house was razed in order to clear the lot for a parking.

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Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE <i>Massachusetts</i> COUNTY <i>Suffolk</i> TOWN <i>Princess Anne</i> VICINITY STREET NO. <i>Somerset Avenue</i> ORIGINAL OWNER --- ORIGINAL USE <i>Dwelling</i> PRESENT OWNER <i>Mrs. Phyllis Dashiell</i> PRESENT USE <i>Deserted</i> WALL CONSTRUCTION <i>Clapboard</i> NO. OF STORIES <i>2½</i>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY	
		2. NAME <i>Dashiell House</i> S-20 DATE OR PERIOD <i>c. 1870</i> STYLE <i>Victorian Italianate</i> ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <i>No</i> <p>This building is a large 2½ storey Victorian mansion, 5 bays long and 3 bays deep. The windows are floor-to-ceiling, The central door is double and deeply molded. It is surrounded by an overlight and sidelights. The roof is hipped with a projecting pediment on each of the four sides. All of these pediments contain 3rd storey windows with rounded arches. A heavy, wide cornice surrounds the house at the roof line. It is supported by elaborately cut brackets interspaced with dentils. There are four interior chimneys decorated with much brick molding. A one storey porch runs the length of the house and along the left side. It is constructed of jigsaw cut columns and an elaborately cut balustrade.</p> <p>There are two small two storey additions at the rear forming a colonnade and a kitchen wing also with an enclosed chimney.</p> <p>This house is very large with high molded ceilings, parquet floors and marble fireplaces in each room. It has been deserted for some time and is rotting. The cornice and the sills appear very rotten. As the finest example of this type of Victorian architecture in the county, and a very fine building in its own right, something should be done to prevent its destruction. It is rumored that the local A & P wishes to buy it to use the land as a parking lot.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE <i>Endangered</i> <i>Interior</i> <i>Exterior</i>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <i>Paul A. Brinkman</i> DATE OF RECORD <i>1/8/67</i>	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



S-20

DENNIS-DASHIELL HOUSE

Princess Anne, Somerset Co., MD

Northeast elevation

1967,

Negative/MD Historical Trust



Dennis - Dashiell House
Princess Anne, Somerset County
Northeast Elevation
Documentary Photograph - 1967
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

S-20

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MARYLAND
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S-20 Dashiell House
c. 1870

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH